

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 2, 2017 5:00 P.M.**

Mayor Horne opened the meeting by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Kittel, Ard, Jackson, Montello, Volkert and Zajkowski

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed for the Las Vegas tragedy.

Alderman Zajkowski moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

### **2018 Budget Review**

Rae Ann Ailts explained the transportation aid number is the only information needed to figure the millrate. She also reviewed the General Government budget. The main changes in this area is the Information Technology Managed Services. This will allow Andrew Lammers to shift his focus to spend 90% of his time on utility mapping, 5% on stormwater utility and 5% on City projects. The contracted electrical inspector is budgeted for 2018 and will have a six month contract that automatically renews.

Mike Demulling explained the airport has a budget increase of \$10,000 to cover expenses that have been shared over the year and will be more reflective of the actual cost of operating the airport. A part-time person will be added for fall and winter of 2018. In 2019, the plan will be to change the part-time person to a full-time position. Several large hangars will be constructed in 2018, so taxes generated from those hangars will help with additional expenses in 2019. There are 203 airplanes based at the airport right now, which is considered second in the State of Wisconsin.

Craig Yehlik explained the Police Department budget. They will add a full-time position in April of 2018. There will be a savings of \$4,000 with the computer managed support, which Craig would like to put towards additional training for 2018. There was discussion regarding the amount of overtime paid this year and over the past several years. Staff will look at the numbers again and see if they can come up with any solutions or increase the amount budgeted for 2018.

Kim Henning explained the Library budget. The new library is on the horizon, so 2018 will be a year of planning. Library Staff is conducting an analysis for long-term and short-term employees. When the City begins construction of a new library building, one or two additional staff will be needed to help with project management or to cover daily operational needs so current staff can oversee the project.

Beth Thompson stated the Economic Development area does not expect any changes for 2018. The amount budgeted for the planning consultant of \$20,000 will stay the same in 2018.

Mike Darrow explained that he will meet with the Chamber and other groups regarding the total contributions from the City to various events. He also discussed the Historic Preservation façade grants and the amount budgeted for 2018. Noah Wiedenfeld has visited over 40 downtown businesses and explained the program to them. Currently the maximum a business can apply for is \$2,000. Several businesses have used this program in the 2017 including, Chickadee Doo-da, New Richmond Computers, Ann Schmiede Law Office and Sunbow Properties (for the Creamery Building).

There was discussion regarding budgeting money to fund some capital projects rather than borrowing for all of these items. Staff will look at the potential impact this would have on the City levy. Staff will also ask the public for feedback on this proposal during their budget discussions.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

The capital improvement plan was handed out to Council members. Rae Ann Ailts explained the process for prioritizing the projects listed in the plan. Staff is asking the Council to rank projects to help staff determine what items are important to them and the order for completion.

### **Dairy Queen Update and Action**

Jeremiah Wendt stated the asbestos sampling and abatement has been completed. The most cost effective solution is to have the Public Works Department demolish the building over the winter. They will sort materials to recycle as much as possible. There was discussion regarding holding a garage sale to get rid of the remaining items. It was the consensus of the Council to call someone to take everything.

Alderman Montello moved to approve the demolition of the building by the Public Works Department, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried. Staff will give the Council a final cost estimate prior to beginning the demolition.

### **Communications & Miscellaneous**

Alderman Ard reported the State Assembly Bill 399 has died and the wheel tax issue is still alive.

Alderman Montello stated the League of Wisconsin Municipalities is asking for people to contact their state representatives about the dark store issue.

### **Closed Session**

Alderman Montello moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to discuss Union Wages and Salaries, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

### **Open Session**

Alderman Montello moved to approve the Police Union Contract as presented in Closed Session, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Alderman Zajkowski moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Montello and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Tanya Batchelor  
City Clerk